Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /027 W

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R 081014Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4870 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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TOKYO FOR SELIGMANN FROM WENZEL

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, OVIP

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF FORMER VICE PRESIDENT LOPEZ

1. FORMER VICE PRESIDENT FERNANDO LOPEZ HAS INFORMED US HE PLANS TO LEAVE MANILA NEXT WEEK TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. FOR A MEDICAL CHECK-UP AT THE MAYO CLINIC. MRS. LOPEZ WILL ACCOMPANY HIM.

2. COMMENT: IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED THE ENDING OF THE TRAVEL BAN (ON AUGUST 22), LOPEZ APPLIED FOR A PASSPORT. AT THAT TIME HE WAS SOMEWHAT DUBIOUS THAT THE GOP WOULD IN FACT GRANT HIM A PASSPORT SINCE THEY HAVE DECLINED HIM PERMISSION TO TRAVEL ABROAD SINCE 1974. HOWEVER HE HAS NOW RECEIVED HIS PASSPORT AND IS READY TO GO. ASSUMING THAT THERE IS NO LAST-MINUTE OBSTRUCTION ON THE PART OF THE GOP, LOPEZ' DEPARTURE WILL BE AN ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ARE INDEED BEING EASED. INCIDENTALLY, MARISA LOPEZ, GRAND-NIECE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND DAUGHTER OF IMPRISONED EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR., DEPARTED EARLIER THIS WEEK FOR STUDY IN THE U.S. ACCORDING TO A LOPEZ FAMILY SOURCE, SHE WAS GIVEN SOME HASSLING AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE AIRPORT BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS BUT MANAGED TO PERSUADE THEM THAT IT WAS ALL RIGHT FOR HER TO LEAVE. SHE HAS A VALID PASSPORT AND EXIT PERMIT (ISSUED PRIOR TO ENDING OF TRAVEL BAN) BUT HAD NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO DEPART WHEN SHE TRIED A FEW WEEKS AGO.

3. FOR TOKYO: THE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. LOPEZ ARE

BOTH ELDERLY AND WILL BE TRAVELING ALONE. THEY HAVE ASKED US WHETHER AMEMBASSY TOKYO MIGHT BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE TO THEM DURING THEIR TOKYO LAYOVER, PARTICULARLY IN SECURING AND TRANSFERRING BAGGAGE. (THEY ARE UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO ASK THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY TO ASSIST.) WHILE WE APPRECIATE THIS IS "ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL," WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY HELP YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE. THE LOPEZ ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS: DEPART MANILA AT 1530 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 14 ON NW FLT. 004, ARRIVING TOKYO 1930 HOURS. DEPART TOKYO 1420 HOURS SEPTEMBER 15 ON NW FLT. 776 BOUND FOR SEATTLE.

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Message Attributes

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